AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An e-mail processing method comprising:

sending, from a mail server for performing a mail delivery process to mail clients, mail attribute information indicating an attribute of an e-mail for the mail client in a data format, the data format enabling said mail client to display the mail attribute information by executing a document browsing program;

receiving, in the mail client, the mail attribute information transmitted from the mail server, and displaying the received mail attribute information in accordance with the document browsing program;

accepting, in the mail client, an operation to select an e-mail selected by a user from among e-mails corresponding to the displayed mail attribute information;

sending from the mail client to the mail server, identification information for identifying an e-mail selected by the user;

receiving in the mail server, the identification information transmitted from the mail client, and sending to the mail client, predetermined character strings for instructing the mail client to process data transmitted from the mail server to the mail client in accordance with an e-mail processing program, prior to or along with sending an e-mail specified by the identification information;

when receiving the predetermined character strings transmitted from the mail server, storing, in accordance with the e-mail processing program by the mail client in a nonvolatile memory, the e-mail transmitted from the mail server, the nonvolatile memory being included in the mail client.

2. (Previously Presented) An e-mail delivery method according to Claim 1, further comprising:

receiving, in the mail client, an instruction to suspend delivery from the mail server of an e-mail selected from among the displayed e-mails, and sending from the mail client identification information for specifying the selected e-mail to the mail server;

wherein the mail server receives identification information transmitted from the mail client, and in the next mail attribute sending step, sends mail attribute information of an e-mail whose delivery is to be suspended, the e-mail being specified by the identification information.

3. (Previously Presented) An e-mail delivering method according to Claim 1,

wherein the mail server and the mail client mutually send and receive data in accordance with a hyper text transfer protocol; and the predetermined character strings are written in a header of a hyper text transfer protocol.

4. (Previously Presented) An e-mail delivering method according to Claim 1,

wherein the mail server and the mail client mutually send and receive data in accordance with a hyper text transfer protocol; and

the mail client, in the step of sending identification information, sends to the mail server identification information for specifying the selected e-mail by using a POST method of a hyper text transfer protocol.

5. (Previously Presented) An e-mail delivering method according to Claim 1,

wherein the mail server and the mail client mutually send and receive data in accordance with a hyper text transfer protocol; and

when the mail server sends to the mail client the predetermined character strings prior to sending an e-mail identified by the identification information, the mail client requests the mail server to transmit the e-mail by transmitting a request to the mail server, the request using a GET method of a hyper text transfer protocol.

6. (Previously Presented) An e-mail delivering method according to Claim 5,

wherein when sending the e-mail to the mail client, the mail server writes in a header of a hyper text transfer protocol in a predetermined order identification information for identifying an e-mail to be transmitted this time, and identification information for identifying an e-mail to be transmitted subsequently and transmits them to the mail client; and

the mail client writes in a request header of a hyper text transfer protocol in a predetermined order, the two pieces of identification information written in a header of the

received hyper text transfer protocol, and requests the mail server to send the e-mail to be subsequently transmitted by transmitting a request header of a hyper text transfer protocol to the mail server; and the mail server identifies an e-mail to be sent on the basis of the predetermined order of the two pieces of identification information in a request header of the received hyper text transfer protocol, and sends the specified e-mail to the mail client.

7. (Previously Presented) A mail server for performing a mail delivering process to a mail client, the mail server comprising:

an attribute information sending unit configured to send to the mail client mail attribute information in a displayable data format enabling the mail client to indicate the e-mail attribute information in accordance with a document browsing program, the mail attribute information indicating an e-mail attribute for the mail client;

an identification information reception unit configured to receive identification information of an e-mail transmitted from the mail client; and

a character string sending unit configured to send to the mail client, predetermined character strings for instructing the mail client to process data transmitted from the mail server to the mail client in accordance with an e-mail processing program, prior to or along with sending an e-mail specified by the identification information.

8. (Previously Presented) A mail server according to Claim 7,

wherein the mail server is configured to send and receive data with the mail client in accordance with a hyper text transfer protocol; and

the character string sending unit is configured to send the predetermined character strings to the mail client by writing the predetermined character strings in a header of a hyper text transfer protocol.

9. (Currently Amended) A mail client which receives e-mails from a mail server, the mail client comprising:

an attribute information reception unit configured to receive, mail attribute information transmitted from the mail server, the mail attribute information indicating an e-mail attribute for the mail client;

a display unit configured to display the received mail attribute information by following the processes written in a document browsing program;

an accepting unit configured to accept an operation to select an e-mail selected by a user from among e-mails corresponding to the displayed mail attribute information;

an identification information sending unit configured to send from the mail client to the mail server, identification information for identifying an e-mail selected by the user; and

a storing device configured to, upon receiving predetermined character strings transmitted from the mail server, store, in accordance with an e-mail processing program by the mail client in a nonvolatile memory, an e-mail transmitted from the mail server, the nonvolatile memory being included in the mail client.

10. (Currently Amended) A mail client according to Claim 9,

wherein the mail client is configured to send and receive data with the mail ~~client~~ server in accordance with a hyper text transfer protocol; and

the identification information sending unit is configured to send to the mail server identification information for specifying the selected e-mail by using a POST method of a hyper text transfer protocol.

11. (Currently Amended) A mail client according to Claim 9,

wherein the mail server and the mail client are configured to mutually send and receive data in accordance with a hyper text transfer protocol, and the mail server is configured to send to the mail client the predetermined character strings prior to sending an e-mail identified by the identification information;

~~the mail client comprising,~~ the mail client ~~includes~~ comprising a requesting unit configured to request the mail server to transmit the e-mail by transmitting a request to the mail server, the request using a GET method of a hyper text transfer protocol.